



You are encouraged to discuss the legal changes that result from your marriage. The following information is provided for your review.

NOTIFICATION OF THE NAME CHANGE AND MARITAL STATUS

By custom, a wife who chooses to take her husband's name as a result of marriage does not need to go through a court proceeding to change her name. This may be accomplished by notifying the appropriate agencies. By way of example, a wife should record her new name with Social Security, her employer, the IRS, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Board of Elections, the school she attends or has children attending, and all financial institutions in which she transacts business.

The husband may adopt the wife's name and the parties may hyphenate their name. However, since these changes are not common, they may be more difficult to accomplish. The parties may need to file an application for a legal name change in the Probate Court of the county of residence for the past year.

Employers should be notified of the change in marital status. If appropriate, the married couple should adjust their federal and state income tax withholdings and the beneficiaries of any retirement plans. Some contracts, divorce decrees, and domestic court rules require notice of the change in marital status. Such documents should be reviewed to determine if notice is necessary. If either party changes their residence address, the Board of Elections in the county of the new residence should be contacted.

Individuals should be aware of the existence of nongovernmental agencies claiming to change social security and/or credit card information for a nominal fee. This Court does not endorse such services. This can be accomplished at no charge by directly contacting Social Security and the other entities previously mentioned.

UPDATE YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE

It is important to notify your insurance agent of your change in marital status and to review your policies. The amount of coverage should be reviewed as a result of combining possessions and financial obligations, as well as increased health care needs. You should reevaluate your needs with respect to the following types of insurance:

Homeowners/Renters: Additional coverage may be desired by both homeowners and renters to cover replacement value of possessions and/or the actual structure.

Automobile: An inquiry should be made to determine if the premium payments for insurance can be reduced as a result of your marriage.

Health: This type of insurance should be reviewed to determine which spouse has better coverage, when the new spouse can be added, the cost of adding additional family members, and if maternity coverage is included.

Disability: Due to additional responsibilities, you may wish to review your coverage with your employer or insurance agent.

Life: Ownership, amount, and the designation of the beneficiaries should be reviewed to determine if changes are necessary. You may contact your agent and/or attorney to obtain suggestions or changes for estate planning purposes.

CONSIDER YOUR LEGAL STATUS

In Ohio, individual ownership of real estate or personal property by each partner does not automatically change into joint or co-ownership after marriage. However, the husband and wife, after marriage, automatically acquire certain interests in the property of the other.

By way of example:

- The right to be supported by the other if necessary;
- The right to a dower interest in the real estate of the other;

- The right to remain in the residence for one year after the death of the spouse; and,
- The right to share in the deceased spouse's probate estate.

As a newly married couple, you should consider how your property is titled. This is an important issue and should be discussed with your attorney.

ESTATE PLANNING

A husband and wife should review their estate plans, including wills, with legal counsel. Prenuptial agreements, if used, must be completed prior to marriage. Consideration should be given to the ownership of existing bank accounts, safe deposit boxes, and other investments.

A properly drawn will assures that:

- Your property will be distributed as you desire;
- You may nominate a person to serve as executor to manage and settle your estate;
- You may nominate a person to serve as the guardian of your minor children; and,
- Certain administrative requirements may be simplified.

There are legal requirements in making a will which must be followed. The proper signatures and the method of execution are critical. It is important that you secure legal advice in making your will. If you do not make a will, your property will be distributed according to the Statute of Descent and Distribution. (ORC 2105.06)

Ohio law recognizes living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care. A living will is your directive regarding the use of life sustaining treatment should you be in a terminal condition or in a permanently unconscious state. A durable power of attorney for health care allows you to select another person to make medical decisions for you should you become incompetent. Forms are available from this Court, the Ohio State Bar Association, your attorney, and other sources.

RETENTION OF RECORDS

For efficiency and security, it is prudent to retain all pertinent documents, receipts, warranties, contracts, leases, cancelled checks, letters, etc. Discuss with your spouse the location of your important documents, which may include: wills, birth certificates, deeds, insurance policies, business agreements, court decrees, stocks, bonds, bank records, recent tax returns, military service papers, funeral instructions, cemetery plot deeds, directions for human organ donations, powers of attorney and living wills. You may also wish to advise other family members where your important documents are located for safe keeping and storage.

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Elections462-3100
Bureau of Motor Vehicles752-7500
Clerk of Courts - Auto Title Dept.462-3090
Columbus Bar Association221-4112
CBA Lawyer Referral Service221-0754
Franklin County Municipal Court
Civil Marriage Ceremony Information645-8162
Immigration & Naturalization Service 1-800-375-5283
Social Security Administration469-6850
or Toll Free 1-800-772-1213
Ohio State Bar Association487-2050

This publication has been prepared by the Franklin County Probate Court to provide information regarding your marriage. It should not be considered as a legal reference. If you have a legal question concerning your marriage, an attorney should be consulted.

03/14/2001



Dear Franklin County Resident:

The Policy of the Franklin County Probate Court is to fulfill its duties as efficiently and effectively as possible. I sincerely hope you find this brochure helpful and your experience with our Court pleasant and successful.

We at the Probate Court would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes for your happy future together.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence A. Belaskis".

LAWRENCE A. BELSKIS, JUDGE

FRANKLIN COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE DIVISION

Marriage Department
373 South High Street
23rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6311

HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

MARRIAGE INFORMATION - 462-3898

Website: www.co.franklin.oh.us/probate

MARRIAGE



Prepared and
issued as a
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JUDGE LAWRENCE A. BELSKIS

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
PROBATE COURT**